

**Public Hearing / Regular Board Meeting
December 13, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Commissioner Jenich announced that the Public Hearing for LJNG, LLC, Brownfield Plan was open. Jeff Hawkins from Envirollogic Technologies Inc. gave an update on the LJNG, LLC also known as Louie's Super Foods Brownfield Plan. He explained the process involved and the need for holding this Public Hearing.

With no other public comment, Commissioner Jenich announced that the Public Hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the November 8, 2011 minutes as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda with the addition of #10 of Logging Road. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment None

Commissioner Barrette made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher #129109 thru #129189 for a total of \$83,970.37 along with the late bills submitted in the amount of \$13,012.12 for a grand total of \$96,982.49. The motion carried by the following vote.
YES: Barrette, Pintar, Ala, Palosaari, Jenich 5.
NO: None 0.

Correspondence None brought forward.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Memorial Airport.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Transfer Station.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board, and Houghton County Recreation Plan Committee.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Fair Board, Portage Lake Multi Rec., and B-H-K Headstart.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: UPCAP, and Houghton County Medical Care Facility.

Commissioner Barrette had a late request and asked that Tax Problem be added to the agenda as #11.

New Business

1. Resolution for Brownfield Redevelopment Loan. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala for Houghton County to approve the resolution as presented to enter into a loan agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Ala, Pintar, Palosaari, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

2. Resolution Approving a Brownfield Plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the resolution as presented for the Brownfield Plan for the property located at 55800 US Highway 41. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Palosaari, Pintar, Ala, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

3. Resolution of Full Faith and Credit. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve that Houghton County authorizes the acceptance of the Brownfield Redevelopment Loan for a maximum of \$400,000, and will enter into a loan contract with the Department of Environmental Quality. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Ala, Pintar, Palosaari, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Recreation Committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar that Houghton County form a separate Recreation Committee consisting of 1 commissioner and 2 appointments from the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Palosaari. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to appoint Commissioner Pintar to serve on the Houghton County Recreation Committee and to appoint Guy St. Germain and Susan Burack from the Planning Commission to serve on the Houghton County Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Palosaari. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Houghton County Planning Commission appointments. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to appoint Dana Richter and Evan McDonald to fill the 2 vacancies on the Planning Commission and to re-appoint Jonathan Leinonen to the Planning Commission. The terms are from 1-1-2012 through 12-31-2014. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Pilgrim River Watershed update. Evan McDonald and Gina Nicholas gave an update on the Pilgrim River Watershed Plan.

7. Houghton County Transfer Station Construction

- a. Request for approval of 5th pay estimate
- b. Request for approval of Summary of Payments Due and approved
- c. Request for approval of estimate of Funds Needed
- d. Request for approval of Change Order No. 3.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Transfer Station payments as listed. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Appropriations

- a. WUPSASCA – Liquor Tax - \$22,026.50
- b. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,124.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the appropriations as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. Travel Requests

- a. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the travel request as listed above. The motion carried by the following vote. Ayes 5. Nays 0.

10. Logging roads. Commissioner Ala spoke in favor of the resolution presented by Antrim County regarding a statutory exemption for stormwater runoff from logging roads and in support of legislation that enacts into law the Silvicultural Rule. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve Houghton County adopting the resolution and sending copies to the Governor, State Representative and Senator. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Palosaari. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Palosaari, Barrette, Pintar, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

11. Tax problem. Mr. Buschell addressed the Board and read a letter he addressed to the Board Chairman. He requested that the letters be presented to the County's attorney. Commissioner Barrette stated the report from the Equalization Department will be given to the assessor to notify him which ones have to be looked at and corrected. It is the assessor who has to make changes.

Public Comment

Larry Corrigan was present and again addressed the Board regarding the lagoon problem. Commissioner Barrette stated the Health Department did a study of cancer rates around the area. They saw no correlation between where the ponds are and higher cancer rates. They feel the problem is a forestry problem not a health problem. He told Mr. Corrigan the Board can not help him any further.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn.

Edward Jenich, Chairman

Mary Schoos, County Clerk